

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 30-47 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 10, 36-38, 41-42, and 45-47 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 30, 34, and 43 have been amended and new claim 48 has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has concluded that claims 42-44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 34 to incorporate the limitations of claim 42. Thus, Applicants believe that amended claim 1 is now allowable as are claims 2-3, 5-9, and 11-14 that depend on amended claim 1 and include all of the limitations of amended claim 1. Similarly, Applicants believe that amended claim 34 is now allowable as are claims 35, 39-40, and 43-44 that depend on amended claim 34 and include all of the limitations of amended claim 34.

The Examiner has also concluded that claim 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claim 30 to incorporate the limitations of claims 45 and 46. Thus, Applicants believe that amended claim 30 is now allowable as are claims 31-33 that depend on amended claim 30 and include all of the limitations of amended claim 30.

II. New Independent Claim 48

New claim 48 is similar to the original claim 34 with the added limitations of claims 45 and 46. Thus, Applicants believe that new claim 48 is allowable.

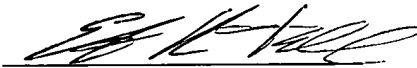
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have responded in a fully satisfactory manner to all matters at issue in the Office Action. If the Examiner has any questions or suggestions concerning the application, or feels that an interview would advance the examination process, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the direct dial number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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